

Hunt, E. H.

WATERGATE

by Steve Long

Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt offered death "contracts" on Sirhan Sirhan to two California prison inmates, according to charges made by investigators Donald Freed and Rusty Rhodes this week.

The investigators also read a statement by former agent provocateur Louis Tackwood alleging that Watergate "dirty trickster" Donald Segretti gave money to the Secret Army Organization (SAO) to be used in part for an attempt to assassinate then President Richard Nixon.

At a San Francisco press conference on Sept. 25, the controversial southern California investigators also charged that the death of Dorothy Hunt, wife of E. Howard Hunt, and the attempted assassination of George Wallace were part of Watergate.

The two convicts who were allegedly offered death contracts on Sirhan, the convicted assassin of Robert Kennedy, both rejected the offer, according to Rhodes. They are Robert Hyde, currently an inmate at Chino prison, and Vladimir Zadko, now in the Adjustment Center at San Quentin prison.

Inmates Hyde and Zadko, who claim that there is a \$25,000 price on Sirhan's head, told Rhodes they have corroborating evidence that E. Howard Hunt approached them in 1972 with the death contract for Sirhan. Los Angeles private investigator Jack Kimbro also has letters from Hyde and Zadko confirming the death offer from Hunt, Rhodes said.

Rhodes charged that authorities of the California prison system want to kill Hyde and Zadko because they talked to him. He claimed that a Soledad prison guard, Sgt. Christie, offered seven inmates a parole and \$2,000 cash if they would kill Hyde. Rhodes said he has letters from the seven inmates backing up this charge, and he reported that one inmate passed a lie detector test, verifying that he was offered a deal to kill Hyde.

It was Hyde who first told Rhodes that San Quentin inmate Ronald Wood had been told by Sirhan Sirhan the true story behind the assassination of Robert Kennedy. Rhodes learned that both Wood and Sirhan were on a prison death list. Last weekend, Wood, who had been recently transferred to a Nevada prison, was mysteriously stabbed to death in prison.

In a recent letter to Nevada Assemblyman Danny Demers, Wood wrote that Sirhan told him that more than one gun was used

during the Robert Kennedy assassination, and that he (Sirhan) did not fire the fatal bullet.

Rhodes alleged that the prison death contract on Sirhan is still in force. He also charged that the Secret Service and FBI have talked to inmates Hyde and Zadko, and that California prison authorities have known for more than a year that assassination contracts were out on Sirhan.

Still more charges were made against the California prison system by Rusty Rhodes. He said the California Dept. of Corrections has a new undercover task force -- a political intelligence unit -- whose official purpose is to search our potential terrorists inside the prisons. Its real function, he said, is to maintain control inside the prisons through controlling the prison narcotics traffic and by the use of behavior modification techniques.

In addition, Rhodes maintained, this undercover political intelligence unit is actually recruiting prisoners for such terrorist groups as the SLA.

In his statement read by Rusty Rhodes, Louis Tackwood said that in the summer of 1971 he had been contacted by an agent of the White House plumbers to recruit Black and Chicano agents-provocateurs to carry out violent disruptions of the 1972 GOP convention then scheduled for San Diego.

Tackwood also reportedly charged that in Nov. 1971 Donald Segretti, using the code name Donald Simms, met with leaders of the ultra-right, para-military SAO at the Gun Smoke Ranch, near San Diego. At that meeting, Segretti is alleged to have passed money to the SAO to purchase high explosives and electronic equipment to be used in part in an assassination attempt on then President Richard Nixon.

The money was also to be used for the kidnapping of anti-war leaders prior to the expected San Diego demonstrations, and for the printing of leaflets with Nixon's photograph and the caption, "WANTED FOR TREASON." According to Tackwood's statement, the leader of the SAO was Howard Barry

Godfrey, an agent-provocateur on the payroll of the FBI; and Republican Congressman Bob Wilson was also involved with the SAO.

The SAO was also linked with the assassination attempt against George Wallace by investigator Donald Freed. Freed charged that a member of the SAO, Roger Gordon, had information that Anthony T. Ulasewicz, a White House operative, was seen with Arthur Bremer, the convicted assassin of Governor Wallace, Gordon fled the U.S. to Australia on July 13, 1973, according to Freed.

Freed said there are other indications that the attempt on Wallace's life may have been part of Watergate Operation Gemstone. Freed charged that Nixon's appointee as FBI Director, L. Patrick Gray, refused to investigate the allegation that Bremer, a so-called "loner," was seen in the company of several frequent companions just prior to the assassination attempt. One of these companions, Dennis Cassini, was found dead of a heroin overdose in the trunk of his car before he could

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be questioned by any law enforcement officials. Freed said the source for this allegation was a member of the Milwaukee Police Dept. "Red Squad."

The entire press conference was permeated by an air of bizarre unreality. So many allegations were thrown out to the assembled press that it was impossible to check up on each one. Many of the charges were unsubstantiated, and the remaining allegations were often backed up by evidence which the investigators said they had, but which was unavailable at the press conference.